

A  
**School Play**  
in Three Scenes

a play for school that is set in school

By and Based on the Books of Robert J. Cormier ([www.thefaithkit.org](http://www.thefaithkit.org))  
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Scene One

*The scene is an empty classroom. It is not clear whether it is early morning or late evening. A man comes in with a broom and something to hold trash. It is obvious that he is there to clean, and he promptly begins to move around the room with his broom.*

*After passing a few desks, he notices a flag (or a picture of a flag, see <http://www.thefaithkit.org/pages/file31a.htm>). It is *The Flag of Faith*. Posted alongside this flag he spots a text that explains it. Not without difficulty, he begins to read this text, reading some of it out loud:*

The Flag of Faith... the color of heaven is blue (*a little while later*)... the color of love is red... (*a little while later*)... the natural color of God's plan is white. White, the brightest color, has always been the color of joy, and victory. It proclaims that all is and will be well.

*After pondering the flag for a few more seconds, he continues down the aisle. After a desk or two he spots some words posted on a wall. These he also reads out loud:*

“God’s Plan for everything is also God’s plan for you.”

*He ponders this for a moment, and now he’s looking for posters. He spots another and goes closer in order to read it:*

“People have the power over you-you give them.” (*This doesn’t seem right. He reads it again.*) “People have the power over you. You give them.” (*This still doesn’t seem right.*) “People have the power over you you give them.” (*Sounds better.*) “People have the power over you you give them.” Hum.

*Back to work. Back to work until he comes of another poster to be read out loud:*

“God always was.” God always was what?

*Here he does not linger long.*

*Now he finds himself at the teacher’s desk. There is a trash can to be emptied. He can hardly avoid looking at the desk. There is a card there which he picks up to read:*

No-toos? No-toos? (*He continues reading.*) The two c’s are comparing ourselves to others and criticizing ourselves for what we cannot or did not do, or have done and cannot change. We say “no” to this on account of our faith.... No 2 C’s (*with uncertainty*)... No 2 C’s (*now he gets it*).

*Above the teacher’s desk he sees and reads out loud:*

“Faith is its own reward.”

*He is now moving past the blackboard toward the door. He spots one more poster. It is posted above the far end of the blackboard, near the door. This, too, he will read out loud:*

“God could not love you more if you were the only person He ever made.” (*A couple of seconds pass and now he reads it out loud again.*) “God could not love you more if you were the only person He ever made.”

*A few more seconds pass and now he finds a chalk and below the poster he writes, in his unsophisticated hand:*

Thank you

*Then he leaves.*

## Scene Two

*It is that typical time of chatter just before class is to begin. The teacher, Mrs. Jones, is sitting behind her desk. There are at least eight students in the class. They are, in no particular arrangement, Alexandra, Devon, Gloria,*

*Helen, John, José, Monica, and Steve. The students are perhaps thirteen, perhaps fifteen years old.*

Mrs. Jones: Ok, let's settle down. We have a lot to do today. (It takes a few seconds but the students settle down.) Please take out your Practical Creed. (*The students take out what could be their catechism book; it is really the text of this play which is already marked to help each one identify his or her lines.*) Let's read it together.

All:

God made us for life in heaven.

The way to heaven is a life of faith and love.

God guides us according to His plan for everything He sends into our lives.

We are going to share heaven as a family where all of us are going to be richer for the holiness of each of us.

Jesus was sent to teach the truth, to found the Church, and to accept the cross on which he taught and showed us love.

The Eucharist is the meal we share to be God's family, and it is also God's way to show us again and again the love He showed us first on the cross.

The rest of the life of Jesus was planned to show us that faith can conquer any adversity.

Mrs. Jones: Ok, let's look at the first sentence. God made us for life in heaven. How do we know? Steve.

John: You always give him the easy ones!

Mrs. Jones: I need to see a hand, John. But since you think this one's so easy, you answer it.

John: It's in the Bible.

Mrs. Jones: And if somebody says they still don't believe, how do we still know? John.

John: (*silence*)

Mrs. Jones: Steve.

Steve: (after a moment) Because God is good?

Mrs. Jones: That's a start. But how do we know that God is good? (*silence*) How do we know there is a God? (*silence*) Come on guys. We have talked about this before.... When I drew a picture of a picture on the board (*Mrs. Jones draws a simple picture within a frame.*) And then I did this. (She signs her picture "God.")

Monica shoots her hand up.

Mrs. Jones: Monica

Monica: Creation was signed.

Mrs. Jones: Good. Now what does it mean?

Monica: It means that if you look at something you can see it came from somewhere.

Mrs. Jones: Good. Now, did God give us life just to take it away, everybody?

Everybody: No.

Mrs. Jones: And what do we call the life that never ends, everybody?

Everybody: Heaven.

Mrs. Jones: Ok, so far so good. Alexandra, read the second sentence.

Alexandra: The way to heaven is a life of faith and love.

Mrs. Jones: How do we know?

Alexandra: Because God told us.

Mrs. Jones: Well, Jesus told us, for sure, but if somebody doesn't automatically believe everything that Jesus said, how can we still show him faith and love are the way to go?

Alexandra: Because it's the best life?

John: She just says that because she's in love with José.

*(Everyone looks around.)*

José: *(to John)* Drop dead.

Mrs. Jones: *(a little agitated)* That's enough. And John what did I tell about blurting things out. You know what happened to you yesterday.... Alright everybody, this is a serious class and we have a long way to go. Devon, read the third sentence.

Devon: God guides us according to His plan for everything He sends into our lives.

Mrs. Jones: How do we know? Devon?

Devon: Because God is so powerful?

Mrs. Jones: Close! God IS powerful. And He's also smart. Everybody, does God know everything?

Everybody: Yes.

Mrs. Jones: And so when God made the world, did He know what would happen next?

Everybody: Yes.

Mrs. Jones: And what would happen after that, and after that, and after that?

Everybody: Yes.

Mrs. Jones: and if God had made the world differently, would things have come out differently.

Everybody: Yes.

Mrs. Jones: So now do you see what we mean by God's plan?

Everybody: Yes.

Mrs. Jones: Good. Let's move on....

*Devon has his hand up.*

Mrs. Jones: Devon.

Devon: If God planned everything... does that mean He planned when people kill people and stuff like that?

Mrs. Jones: Good, Devon, somebody needed to ask that. And now I need everybody to listen up. (*pause*) God has a plan for everything. But what is God trying to do with His plan? God is trying to get us to grow up—to grow up out of being selfish and stupid, to grow up out of being bad. But this can't happen in a day. It needs to take time, and many things need to happen. And some of these things are the bad things we have to grow out of. But by asking us to go through all these things God is getting us ready to be the family we need to be in heaven. That's what God's plan is always doing—it's getting us ready to be the family we need to be in heaven. Does everybody get it?

*(Not everybody says)* Yes.

Mrs. Jones: Ok, we ready for the fourth sentence. Gloria, please read for us the fourth sentence.

Gloria: We are going to share heaven as a family where all of us are going to be richer for the holiness of each of us.

Mrs. Jones: Anybody have any idea of what this means?

*No one makes a move.*

Mrs. Jones: If your mom or your dad wins some big prize, do you win too?

Everybody: Yes.

Mrs. Jones: That's right. In a family, everybody shares what everybody has, right?

Everybody: Yes.

Mrs. Jones: Well, we are all children of the same God, right?

Everybody: Yes.

Mrs. Jones: We're a family. And each of us has a job to do. Some of us teach, and some of us clean. (*Mrs. Jones looks at the "Thank you" still on the board.*) Some of us were asked to live a long time ago, and to start the towns and cities where we live and learn today. Our job is to take what we were given and make the world an even better place. And when all of us have done our job and we have become the family that we were meant to be, all of us will share what each one of us gets from God. Does everybody get it?

*(Not everybody says)* Yes.

Mrs. Jones: Look at it this way, if we have a class picnic, and we ask everyone to bring something, something different, won't everyone get to share everything we have?

Everybody: Yes.

Mrs. Jones: And will anyone get more?

John: José.

*(Laughter)*

Mrs. Jones: Ok, Ok... Helen, will you read the fifth sentence?

Helen: Jesus was sent to teach the truth, to found the Church, and to accept the cross on which he taught and showed us love.

Mrs. Jones: How do we know this, Helen?

Helen: These are the things that Jesus did.

Mrs. Jones: That's true... but how we know?

*(Silence)*

Mrs. Jones: John? (silence) Nothing to say? Wow.... Ok, let's look at it this way. If Jesus WASN'T sent to start the Church, who should we be following? (silence) Great. For once I'm glad you DON'T have an answer. José will you please read the sixth sentence?

José: The Eucharist is the meal we share to be God's family, and it is also God's way to show us again and again the love He showed us first on the cross.

Mrs. Jones: What is the Eucharist?

*Steve wants to answer.*

Steve: Church.

Mrs. Jones: What else do we call it?

Steve: Mass.

Mrs. Jones: And Mass is a re-play of what famous meal of the past?

*Helen wants to answer.*

Mrs. Jones: Helen.

Helen: The last supper.

Mrs. Jones: Good. Now, let's think about it. You know the story. Did Jesus know it was his last supper?

Everybody: Yes.

Mrs. Jones: Ok, it was his last supper because what was coming?

Everybody: The cross.

Mrs. Jones: So, doesn't that mean that by doing what he did he was accepting the cross?

Everybody: Yes.

Mrs. Jones: We're almost there. Steve would you read the last sentence?

Steve: The rest of the life of Jesus was planned to show us that faith can conquer any adversity.

Mrs. Jones: Can anybody tell me why we say this?

*Monica wants to answer.*

Mrs. Jones: Monica

Monica: Jesus put up with a lot.

Mrs. Jones: Like what?

Monica: He was nailed to the cross.

Mrs. Jones: Anything else?

*Alexandra wants to answer.*

Mrs. Jones: Alexandra.

Alexandra: He was whipped.

Mrs. Jones: Anything else? (silence) Wasn't he also born poor, and lied about, and abandoned by his friends, and betrayed by Judas, and humiliated in front of lots of people?

Everybody: Yes.

Mrs. Jones: Yes, and I hope you'll notice even more as we keep reading the gospel.... Ok, for tonight, I want you go over our creed and start to put it in your memory. You are going to need to know it before the year is over. And I have one more thing for you tonight. (*Mrs. Jones starts to look among the papers on her desk. She holds up a small pile.*) This is A Letter from God to You. Take it home. Read it. And write God back!

Everybody: Ohhhh!

Mrs. Jones: That's your homework!

### Scene Three

*The students have left. Mrs. Jones is sitting at her desk organizing her papers. She picks up A Letter from God to You and begins to read it out loud:*

Dear you,

I am so happy that you are thinking of me because I am always thinking of you.

Perhaps you did not know this. Perhaps you sometimes feel alone, and even unimportant.

Please know that this could not be farther from the truth. It could not be farther from the truth.

I made you. I wanted to give you life because I knew that I would love you. That means that I also made you different from others—wonderful in a way that I would see no where else. Please know I put my whole self into the making of you; I could do no less.

I guess this isn't always obvious, but you don't see you the way I do. You are usually too busy being bothered by your imperfection to see the heart I gave you; and you have no idea of the person I am preparing you to be. (You will be so happy when finally our work is done.)

Please know that I know that life is sometimes very hard. I ask you to trust me: I have the best possible reason to ask you to go through what you are going through—and you will see this soon enough. And I also need you to know this: I am going through it with you. There is nothing you feel that I do not feel, as though it were me, because it is you.

And I am thrilled with all your victories, even those you hardly notice.

And one more thing you need to know: I am so happy when you love, when you give, forgive, and are happy for people, even when they do not know it. I am happy and I am proud because you are imitating the love I have for you, and always will.

*Mrs. Jones ponders the page for a moment. She puts the letter down, picks up a pad, and starts writing something. After some time has passed, she picks up her pad and reads aloud when she has written:*

Dear God,

I really loved Your letter. Thank You. I know that You do pay attention to me, and to all of us all the time. I think it must be a lot, even for You. I mean, we want things ALL THE TIME. We have so many problems, that seem to us so big, and so many are problems that we made for ourselves.

But still You suffer our problems with us; I know that this is true. And You suffer all sorts of terrible things with everyone all around the world.

Help me to remember this. Help me to remember that You made us not for Your sake but for ours, and that You are doing all You can to give us all You can. Help me to remember this.

Help me not forget what life is all about.

Help me not to think small.

Help me to understand that every opportunity You give me to help myself or others is always worth the effort, even more than I imagine.

And help me to see the signs You send us big and small, each and every day, that are meant to call our minds to you, give us hope, and maybe even help us love.

*Now Mrs. Jones gets up, picks up her bag, and heads for the door. She pauses where it still says “Thank you” on her board. Below it she writes Thank you.*

A downloadable Flag of Faith and Letter from God are available at [thefaithkit.org](http://thefaithkit.org).